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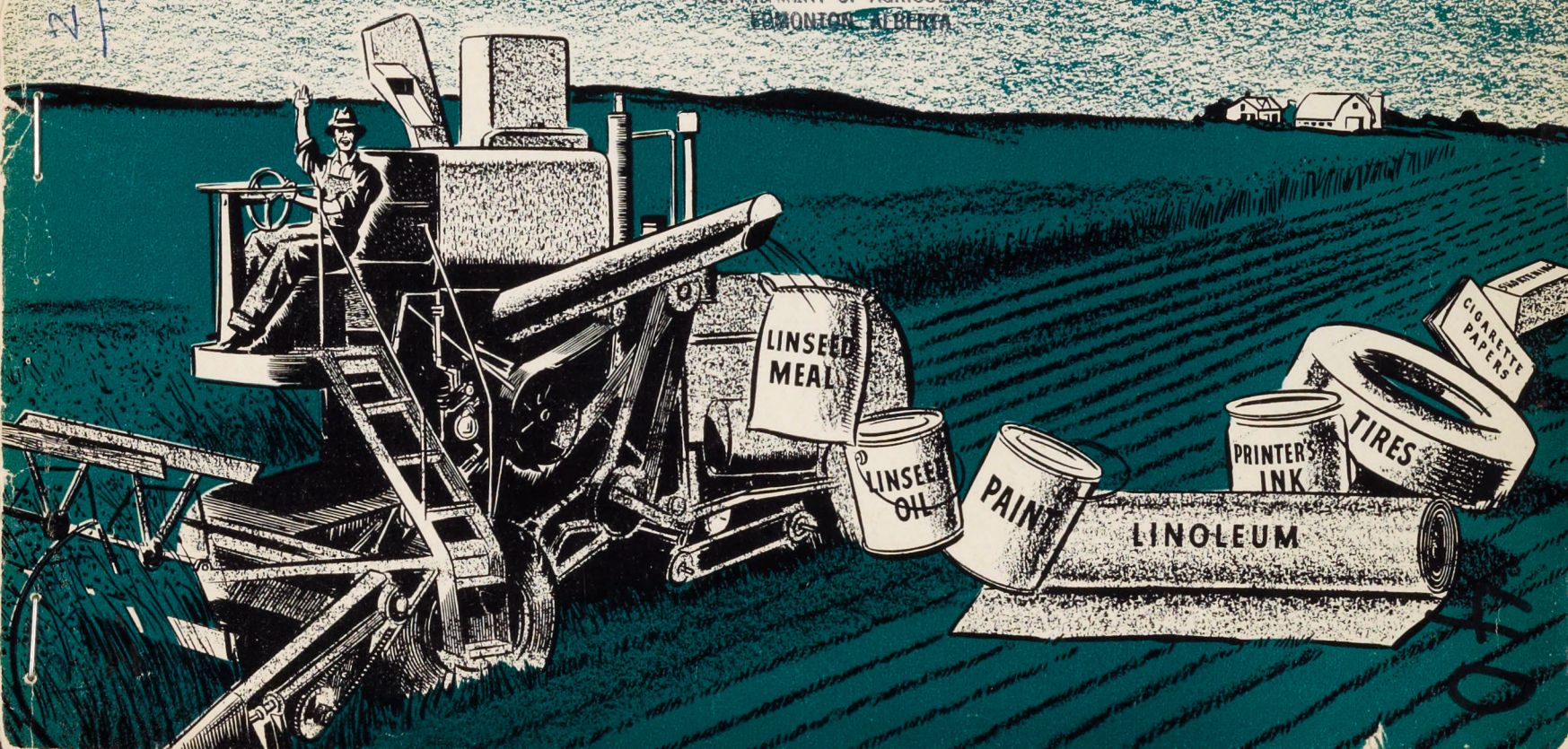
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There's a Future in

FLAX

JUN 22 1979

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
EDMONTON, ALBERTA





FLAX—A CONSTANT FACTOR IN YOUR LIFE . . .

EVERY SECOND OF EVERYDAY products of Flax are being used in every corner of the globe. Intertwined in the everyday life of everyone Flax is truly a **CONSTANT FACTOR** in world economy and Canadian life.

FLAX—is not in surplus in relation to other major crops; the percentage of carry-over is much the same for all.

FLAX—demand is geared partially to industrial and building activity, through use of linseed oils in paints . . . and in these fields, business looks good.

FLAX—is a most important element in the livestock industry, through the widespread use of linseed meal as a feed supplement . . . and livestock herds must be increased, for several years to come.

One fundamental and encouraging fact—is this: In all major uses, the products of Flax are so much superior to any substitutes that their market can be expanded almost without limit. Paints, varnishes and lacquers will always contain linseed oil when good supply makes the price favorable . . . and the better the supply, the wider the market. The same is true in the making of linoleum, oilcloth, printing inks, core oils and many other products. It is likewise true of linseed meal for cattle feeding, as against competitive meals. And, of course, there is no substitute whatever for Flax fibre used to make cigarette papers.

Published by

**FLAX IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA**

*All information contained in "There's a Future in Flax" has been approved by the
Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta Departments of Agriculture*

A GOOD CROP FOR PRAIRIE FARMERS . . .

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IS FLAX A GOOD CROP FOR THE AVERAGE FARMER?

The increasing number of new flax uses and the new demand for flax straw indicate that the demand will increase. It should continue to be one of the most profitable small grain crops.

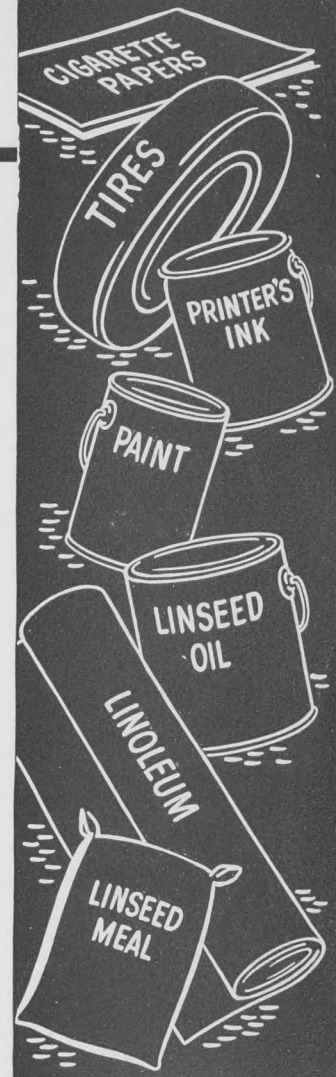
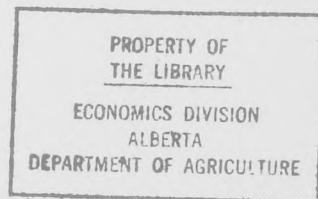
Flax rates well as a crop. It is superior as a nurse crop, particularly with alfalfa. It is a good early deliverable crop. When properly rotated in the cropping program, flax is not hard on the land. It takes no more out of the soil than other grains. It has no serious insect enemies. The history of flax since the early days when it was a prairie-breaking crop until the present time when it has been worked into the regular rotation has proved that it is a profitable venture.

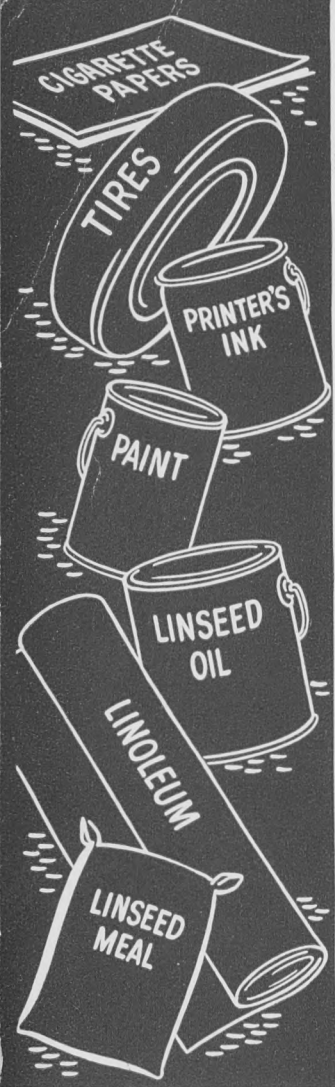
Flax requires good farming methods. High flax yields demand careful planning, good seed and correct cultural

practices. When these are followed, flax should earn a prominent, profitable place in every crop program.

ARE FLAX PRODUCTS USED BY THE FARMER?

The products of flax are used by every farmer in paint for his buildings; in paint for farm machinery and the automobile; in linoleum for his floors and oilcloth for his table; in the printer's ink used not only in his newspapers but in Government bulletins, etc.; as an oil for core-sand in the making of the castings used in his machines; in the production of rubber used in tires on farm machinery, trucks and cars; as a feed for livestock, linseed oil-meal not only supplies protein to the ration but has medicinal properties not found in other protein concentrates; in the manufacture of cigarette paper, currency paper and documentary paper; and finally, as an edible oil in the manufacture of shortenings used in the home. Flax is therefore a crop that should be grown by many Western Canadian farmers.





FLAX FACTS . . .

IS FLAX A RISKY CROP?

Flax is a much misunderstood crop. Some farmers consider it a hazardous crop and plant only when prices are high. They make no provision for its inclusion in their regular cropping program.

However, many farmers grow flax consistently, year after year, and state it is a profitable crop over a long term of years. Good cultural practices combined with careful planning take the risk out of flax growing.

CAN WEEDS BE CONTROLLED?

Weeds will always be a problem where grain is grown. However, many farmers, through obtaining clean seed, using a planned rotation and good cultural practices, have made weeds a minor problem in flax growing.

IS FLAX HARD ON THE SOIL?

Flax, properly handled, is not hard on the soil. In the early years flax was grown only on spring prairie breaking. While a good crop of flax was produced, it did not provide for the proper rotting of the sod and succeeding crops were often poor. As soon as the land was summerfallowed, good crops were again obtained. In addition, the wilt disease of flax made it impossible to

produce a good second crop of flax, and further led to the false conception that flax was hard on the land. Wilt is no longer a menace owing to the use of wilt-resistant varieties.

IS FLAX STRAW A PROBLEM?

In the past, flax straw, when the crop was combined, has been a problem. It was usually not sufficiently heavy to burn and caused considerable trouble in plowing or one-waying. In some areas it is no longer a problem. In the Red River Valley it is a source of revenue from processing mills, and a recent announcement indicates that other areas will be developed in the near future. However, arrangements should be made with processors before shipping.

IS DISEASE A PROBLEM?

Development of rust and wilt-resistant varieties has helped farmers in overcoming the worst diseases. In Western Canada pasmo is not serious, and even more resistant varieties have been developed.

Successful flax growers must plan their fields—they must anticipate weeds—they must follow approved cultural practices—but the returns per acre merit careful planning and planting.

Flax is a good crop for prairie farmers.

THE FLAX FIELD . . .

IS GOOD LAND NECESSARY?

Flax merits the use of first quality land.

Four things should be considered when choosing the best field for flax—fertility, freedom from weeds, drainage and past history of the field. Here the tilth and cropping practices which have influenced these factors must qualify decisions. Flax needs good soil and available moisture for maximum growth. As a rule it does not grow well on sandy or gravelly soils.

SHOULD THE LAND BE FERTILIZED?

The best evidence to date indicates that fertilizers benefit flax, but in most cases farmyard manure should be applied to the crops preceding flax. Commercial fertilizers if used sparingly at about 25 pounds per acre may be applied with the flax crops. Barnyard manure not only may carry seeds, but if used for the flax crop leaves the land too open. However, if the manure is applied in the summerfallow year, flax will respond to it the following year.

WILL FLAX COMPETE WITH WEEDS?

Flax is a poor weed competitor. Give it the best chance by selecting a field that is known to be relatively

free of the many common annual weeds that bother the crop. Otherwise use chemical sprays and other recommended controls.

SHOULD THE SOIL BE WET?

High, well-drained soil allows early spring work, which is most important in growing flax. High land is apt to be freer from weeds, for water carrying weed seeds will not have flooded it in previous seasons.

IS THE PREVIOUS CROP IMPORTANT?

In the past it has been the practice to recommend that flax should be grown only on breaking, summerfallow, or after intertilled crops. However, later investigations have shown that often cleaner and better crops may be secured on properly prepared stubble land. Flax stubble, however, should be avoided, as rust, pasmo and browning diseases live over winter on the flax straw and stubble and wilt in the soil. On heavy soils the land should be either fall-plowed or one-wayed, and surface cultivated the following spring. On loam soils the plowing or one-waying may be delayed until the spring, but the cultivation should be done sufficiently early to allow for the destroying of one or two crops of weeds before seeding.





FLAX AND CROP ROTATION . . .

CAN FLAX BE USED IN THE FARM ROTATION?

Flax is well adapted to rotation plans in the Canadian west, for it fits into the rotation in exactly the same way as small grains. It is seeded, harvested and threshed with the same equipment. Increased yields will make it a profitable crop in the rotation.

DOES IT PAY TO PLAN THE ROTATION?

In planning the rotation, the following facts should be considered: (1) Flax requires the moisture near the surface; therefore in dry seasons summerfallow is suggested. (2) Sometimes flax should, for the sake of weed control, be grown on first crop stubble land. (3) Where forage crops are grown flax can be used to advantage as a nurse crop for grasses, alfalfa, red clover and alsike clover. Flax should not be used as a nurse crop for sweet clover, because the clover frequently grows so rank in the first year that it makes flax harvesting very difficult. (4) Flax can be grown after breaking either tame grasses and clovers or prairie sod to advantage, provided the land is

worked by disking and harrowing until it is level and firm. (5) **Flax needs warm soil for quick germination so should be sown on stubble rather than summer fallow where the soil is heavy and cold.** There are advantages in including flax in the grain rotation: first it is not subject to the same diseases as cereals, and second, many of the insects that attack grains, such as wheat-stem sawfly, etc., will not attack flax.

CAN A SINGLE ROTATION BE RECOMMENDED?

The type of rotation is dependent to a large degree upon the characteristics of the farm, type of farming, and the weed situation in the proposed flax fields. **Agricultural representatives of the Provincial Extension Service should be consulted when planning the crop programme.**

DOES FLAX CONTROL SOIL DRIFTING?

Where there is danger of soil drifting, the use of small fields, about 20 acres each, sown in strips between other crops is recommended.

THE SEED BED . . .

IS A FIRM SEED BED NECESSARY?

Increased flax yields will more than compensate for the extra time necessary to prepare a proper seed bed.

CAN FLAX BE GROWN ON BREAKING?

While fair crops of flax can be secured on spring breaking, it has been found that best results are obtained when the breaking has been done the preceding summer. This allows for the better rotting of the sod and the levelling of the surface. Flax requires a firm, fine, level seed bed.

WILL FLAX GROW ON STUBBLE LAND?

The practice of sowing flax on stubble land has increased tremendously in recent years. This has been due to several factors, among them (1) the efficiency of sowing with a one-way with a seed attachment; (2) the warmer soil and quicker growth on stubble as compared with fallow; and (3) the weediness of most summerfallows requires more weed control tillage in the spring. Stubble land should be disked lightly in the fall, soon after harvest. This fall disking will start many of the weeds. Where no fall cultivation has been done, the land can be lightly disked early in the spring to cover surface weeds and encourage germination. After spring disking, it takes two weeks for a crop of weeds to make a start. Con-

sequently, the seeding of flax may be delayed until about the third week of May.

SHOULD ONE SOW FLAX ON SUMMERFALLOW?

The summerfallow should be as free from weeds as possible. Before seeding, the soil should be levelled with a drag-harrow, possibly preceded by double-disking or duck-footing. (This is not recommended where there is danger of soil drifting as in Saskatchewan.) Where disk-ing and cultivating are necessary it should be as shallow as possible and a good cultivation job will result. Most summerfallows contain weed seeds and the flax grower should attempt to eliminate at least one crop of weeds before sowing his crop. After harrowing, it usually takes two weeks for the weeds to get a good start and seeding may be delayed until about May 15th or 20th.

CAN FLAX BE SOWN WITH A TILLER COMBINE?

The use of the tiller combine for seeding flax has increased enormously in Western Canada. One reason for this is the accuracy of the new seeder attachments as compared with the inaccuracy of the old worn drills. Another seems to be the spreading or scattering the seed by the one-way, allowing a more complete soil coverage by the flax plants than is obtained with a drill. With the use of the tiller combine great care must be exercised not to plant the seed too deeply and to have soil packed immediately after seeding.





THE VARIETY . . .

SHOULD ONE SOW PURE SEED?

Increased yields of one bushel or more per acre are attributed to clean seed. This extra bushel more than pays the cost of having the seed cleaned and treated. Real progress has been made in developing disease-resistant varieties of flax. Since varieties cannot be readily distinguished by their seed, it is necessary to buy from a reliable source. Because varieties which yield well in some localities may produce poorly in others, consult your agricultural representative before buying. **Seed should be adapted to the locality, tested for germination, cleaned and treated.** Registered and certified seed insures varietal purity and protection against sowing noxious weeds. If necessary to buy seed, contact your University, Extension Service or Field Crops Commissioner.

IS THE VARIETY IMPORTANT?

ROYAL—A high-yielding, rust resistant variety developed at the University of Saskatchewan and recommended for all areas where rust is a hazard. It is particularly adapted to long season areas. It is moderately resistant to wilt and spring frosts.

REDWING—One of the older dependable varieties adapted, because of its earliness, to the more northern regions. This variety is moderately resistant to wilt and less susceptible to rust than Bison. It has consistently outyielded the later varieties in all northern and north-central areas in Alberta.

VICTORY—A white blossomed variety producing large brown seeds and maturing with Royal. Stands generally not uniform as to height or maturity but yields well. Resistant to flax wilt and rust, but quite susceptible to pasmo.

VIKING—Has large yellow seeds of good quality. It resembles Royal in lateness. Yields somewhat less and has a much shorter straw. The very short straw of Viking is one of its disadvantages; the other is that it is very susceptible to the pasmo disease.

BISON—Is highly resistant to wilt, but very susceptible to rust. It was the main variety grown in Western Canada until rust became a problem. Compared with Royal, Bison averages distinctly lower in yield. It is a few days earlier but should not be grown except in areas where rust has not proven to be a problem. It is the most satisfactory variety for southern Alberta.

SHOULD THE SEED BE TREATED?

Flaxseed should be treated with a mercuric dust such as Ceresan. Nearly all flaxseed in Western Canada requires treatment, because of the minute cracks in the seed coats which allow micro-organisms in the soil to kill the seed before germination takes place, unless chemical dusts prevent this from happening. Apply Ceresan at the rate of $1\frac{1}{2}$ ounces per bushel. The seed should not be treated less than 24 hours or more than one month before seeding.

PLANTING . . .

IS THE METHOD OF SEEDING IMPORTANT?

Flax should be sown as soon as the soil is moderately warm, which is usually about the second week in May, or about a week after wheat seeding commences. Cold soil retards germination and emergence and gives the weeds a chance to get ahead of the flax. If early May is cold, flax seeding should be delayed until the weather is reasonably warm. Where flax seeding is delayed until a crop of weeds is killed it is well to remember that most flax varieties take longer than Marquis wheat to mature. Seeding is sometimes delayed to avoid spring frost damage. This is a mistake, as the disadvantages of late seeding usually outweigh the advantages. In most years the best results are obtained by seeding between the 10th and 20th of May. When flax emerges it is usually fairly resistant to frost, then for a few days it is less resistant, and thereafter shows greater resistance again.

SHOULD FLAX BE SOWN EARLY?

Ordinarily flax should be sown before May 20th, except in the southern parts of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. However, it must be recognized that flax sown on stubble usually ripens in less time than a summerfallow crop and can therefore be sown later.

DOES RATE OF SEED AFFECT YIELD?

For a variety with medium-sized seed, like Royal, from 25 to 40 pounds of seed per acre is recommended. A sound basis is a rate of 28 pounds per acre for good seed of medium size treated with mercuric dust. This basic rate should be modified to suit conditions. For example, it should be increased where the seed is large, the germination low, the soil especially rich or moist, the seeding late, the soil weedy, or where thinning from cutworms, frost or harrowing is anticipated. In Alberta irrigated land requires heavier seeding than dry land. Most irrigation farmers sow up to 40 pounds of seed per acre.

SHOULD SEED BE SOWN SHALLOW?

The flax seedling is weak when emerging and is not able to push through a tight, hard soil, or break a thick surface crust. Flax should be sown into moderately firm, moist soil, but no deeper than is necessary to obtain uniform germination. On medium-light to medium-heavy soils a depth of 1½ inches is generally satisfactory. Care should be exercised to plant the seed at a uniform depth. Attachments are now available for most double-disk drills to make the depth of seeding uniform. If a one-way with drill attachment is used, seeding may be slightly deeper, but must be uniform.



WEEDS . . .

DOES FLAX MAKE LAND WEEDY?

Flax does not bring weeds to the field, but because the slender plant does not shade the ground as densely as do other grains, weeds present in the soil grow more readily. In addition to early sowing, the selection of clean fields, the use of clean seed, proper crop rotation and shallow spring work, there are other important methods of controlling weeds in soil.

WILL HARROWING AFTER SEEDING KILL WEEDS?

Sometimes the weed growth will start before the flax. Where this happens, the harrowing of the field before the flax emerges may be effective in killing weed growth. Where narrow-toothed "weeder" are available, this implement may be used to better advantage than the harrow.

DO WEEDS AFFECT THE VALUE OF STRAW?

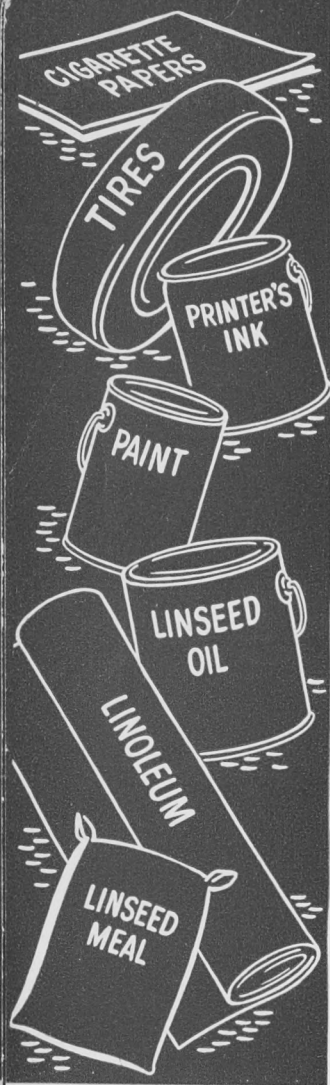
Flaxseed yields of marketable straw can be greatly increased by reducing weeds. The value of the straw is greatly reduced if weeds are present. Such weeds as cocklebur make the straw useless for paper manufacture.

Weeds are the big problem for flax growers, but the return flax offers makes it worthwhile to take real measures to combat the weeds.

IS SPRAYING ADVISABLE?

Science has taken many great strides in the field of weed control through spray chemicals. Through the proper use of these chemicals, considerable increases in yield have been realized. On the following page this important subject is dealt with at length by a recognized expert.

This article contains the latest and most up-to-date information available.



WEED CONTROL . . .

The following authoritative article on "MODERN WEED CONTROL METHODS" has been prepared by Mr. H. E. Wood, Chairman of the National Weeds Committee.

Weeds are a definite enemy of flax. In addition to crowding the crop to a point where yields are often greatly reduced, weeds add to the difficulty of harvesting and cause heavy dockage. Spraying can be of major benefit.

A real ray of hope to flax growers appeared with the introduction into Western Canada in 1944 of a "selective" chemical known as Sinox. This chemical, applied as a spray to the growing flax crop, destroyed most broad leaved annual weeds without damage to the crop. Following its use, most fields registered a marked increase in yield. Apart from requiring considerable water per acre (about 65 gallons, since reduced to about 40) and the need for rather expensive spray equipment, indications pointed to an increasing use of Sinox and a similar product—Dow's Selective Weed Killer. Then the new hormone weed killer 2,4-D appeared.

When first introduced in 1945, 2,4-D was not considered safe to use on flax. Very considerable experimentation since, together with wide use by farmers, has demonstrated quite the opposite. Applied in somewhat lower dosage than for cereals, flax has shown considerable tolerance to the chemical, with very satisfactory weed control the rule. Flax plants, from emergence until they have attained several leaves, and especially from the commencement of bud formation until flowering is completed, are highly susceptible to 2,4-D. Treatment should, therefore, be avoided at these two periods. Under most conditions flax will be safe to treat as soon as any considerable amount

of weed growth appears. Weeds are more easily killed and less crowding to crop follows early application of chemical.

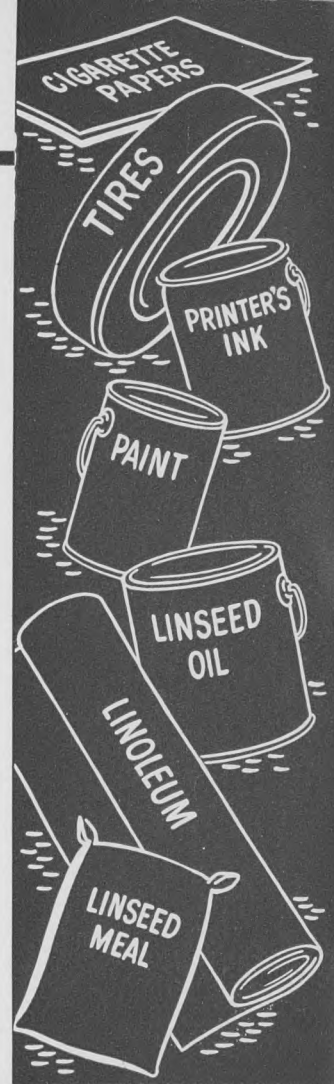
Some delay in maturity may follow the use of 2,4-D on flax. This is more evident when an overdosage is applied, especially of the ester formulation. Preliminary experiments indicate some varieties are more susceptible to 2,4-D than others.

The Second Western Canadian Weed Control Conference did not make separate recommendations for flax, but included flax along with the cereals. **Amounts of 2,4-D acid to use should range from 3 to 6 ounces**, the lower rates for susceptible weeds when they are quite small, the higher for weeds showing more resistance, or when weed growth is advanced. The higher rate may cause some damage, but this will be offset by weed destruction. The ester should be used at a rather lower rate than the amine.

The advantages favoring the use of 2,4-D on flax briefly are: its cheapness (applied with as little as four gallons of water per acre or as a dust) and its effectiveness on a wide range of weeds.

Depending upon stage and succulence of growth, climatic conditions, etc., the following range in amounts of 2,4-D to use on flax is suggested:

		Ounces Acid per Acre
Susceptible.....	Amine	3-4
	Ester	2-3
Partially Resistant.....	Amine	4-6
	Ester	3-4
Perennials.....	Amine	6-8
	Ester	4-6



GRASSHOPPER CONTROL . . .

Grasshoppers can cause serious losses in flax crops and, whenever they are abundant in fields of flax, some control measures are essential.

Most of the grasshopper damage is caused by three different species. Two of these, the clear-winged grasshopper, *Camnula pellucida* (Scudd.), and the two-striped grasshopper, *Melanoplus bivittatus* (Say), lay their eggs in sod on roadsides, in pastures, and along ditchbanks; the third, the lesser migratory grasshopper, *Melanoplus mexicanus mexicanus* (Sauss.), lays its eggs throughout cropped fields and waste land, avoiding land that is in summer-fallow.

Most spring damage caused by the first two species is strikingly apparent. The grasshoppers will move from the egg-beds to the edges of adjacent fields and, feeding as they advance, cut off the seedlings. Complete destruction of flax along the field margin may result.

Spring damage by the lesser migratory grasshopper is scattered throughout the crop and is generally not noticeable except in severe infestations. Damage will be more severe to flax planted on stubble land than on summer-fallow, and the practice of continued cropping should be avoided in areas where severe infestations of this grasshopper are likely to occur.

Flax is more susceptible to spring damage than are the grain crops since it does not tiller, and in general the plant will not recover if the seedling is eaten to the ground.

The continued presence of grasshoppers in a flax field

throughout the summer causes a thin stand and a reduced yield. In the late summer when the flax is becoming mature the adult grasshoppers cut off many of the bolls by chewing the thin stems supporting them. As few as five grasshoppers per square yard can cause considerable loss in this way.

Control by tillage reduces the number of grasshoppers hatching from eggs in infested fields. Deep and well-turned ploughing is the most effective tillage method. When this cannot be practised because of danger from soil drifting, shallow tillage with a one-way disc or a duck-foot cultivator in the fall and spring will materially reduce the numbers of grasshoppers. Summer-fallowing, particularly of fields adjacent to land in crop, should be done by tilling a guard strip around the field so as to destroy all growth and working towards the centre. This forces the young grasshoppers into the centre strip where they can be poisoned, and avoids driving them onto the nearby crop.

Chemical control of grasshoppers can be effected by spraying the food plants with chlordan or toxaphene or by applying poison bait.

Chlordan should be applied as a spray at the rate of three-quarters of a pound to one pound per acre, and toxaphene at 1½ lbs. to 2 lbs. per acre. The spray will cost about 75 cents per acre for material. The effectiveness of a spray depends on the amount of poison deposited on vegetation upon which the grasshoppers will



subsequently feed, and spraying should only be used where this vegetation is abundant.

Chlordan or toxaphene may remain effective for a week and possibly longer, but since residual effects seem to depend on factors which are not fully understood, a close check should be kept on the grasshoppers and further applications made as necessary.

In the very early seedling stage of flax and where there is short grass on dried-out roadsides, there is insufficient green vegetation to hold the spray, and poisoned bait will provide a more satisfactory control. The bait should be prepared as follows:

Sawdust.....	50 gal.
Millfeed or flour.....	3 gal.
Chlordan emulsion (10 to 12 lb. chlordan per gal.)	1 cup or 8 ozs.
or Toxaphene emulsion.....	2 cups or 16 ozs.
Water.....	6 to 10 gal.—sufficient to thoroughly moisten.

Mix flour and sawdust thoroughly. Add the chlordan or toxaphene to the water, stir. Add the poisoned water to the flour-sawdust mixture in a mixing machine or by mixing with a shovel until thoroughly moist. When the mixing is complete it should be possible to squeeze out drops of liquid but water should not run out of the mixture. Apply by scattering evenly among the grasshoppers at the rate of 5 gal. of bait per acre.

Grasshopper control campaigns are being conducted by the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. The details of organization and type of assistance given the farmer differ in each. Much will depend on the initiative and help given by the individual farmer, who should keep in close touch with his municipal office.

For further information consult grasshopper forecast maps in municipal offices, the Agricultural Representative in your district, the Provincial Department of Agriculture at Winnipeg, Regina, or Edmonton, or the Dominion Entomological Laboratory at Brandon, Saskatoon, or Lethbridge.



HARVESTING AND MARKETING . . .

IS FLAX DIFFICULT TO HARVEST?

With proper equipment, flax is no more difficult to harvest than other grains.

The cash return from an acre of flax may exceed that from other grains, there are fewer bushels to handle on the farm—fewer trips to market. Flax can be harvested when most of the stalks and bolls are brown without injuring the yield and quality of seed and straw. Prompt harvesting reduces the volume of weed growth.

CAN ADJUSTMENTS BE MADE TO IMPROVE THRESHING?

A good sharp knife with smooth-edged sections is essential for cutting flax, as it does not cut as easily as other grains. Where the straw is not to be used, a long stubble may be left. Normally it should be cut from 4 to 6 inches high. Where the straw is marketable it should be cut considerably lower than this to insure a longer stem. When harvested with a grain binder in the moister areas (as in Manitoba), flax should be stooked immediately, and since it does not dry easily it should be tied in small loose bundles.

In most of the flax areas combining is fast becoming the method of harvesting. In many sections straight combining is the practice. Where the flax fields are free from weeds and second growth, this system is quite satisfactory. Where the fields are weedy and the crop is late, combining may be delayed until the frost has killed the weeds. The

practice of swathing and combining has the advantage that the crop can be cut at the proper stage of maturity, with no loss of bolls. If weeds are present they will dry out and cause little trouble in combining. The combining can be done on dry warm days and better threshing will result. If the grain is to be combined, the cylinder speed should be increased, and where the cylinder is of the rubber bar type, the attachments recommended by the manufacturers should be used. Adjustment of the combine must be made frequently, according to the ease of threshing, to break all the bolls and prevent the seed from being thrown over. If in doubt as to the best method of threshing or combining, consult the Agricultural Engineering Department of your Extension Service or University.

IS FLAX EXPENSIVE TO MARKET?

Flax straw, once a problem to destroy, is now a profitable item for many farmers. Where flax is grown within trucking distance of a breaking plant, the straw may be sold for the production of paper-making fibre. Where the crop is being threshed with an ordinary separator, care should be taken to build a stack that will shed water. If the crop is being combined, it will be necessary to gather up the straw either by raking into bunches or using a pick-up baler. If the straw is being bunched for sale, it should be shipped to the plant as soon as raked. Otherwise it may become tough or wet and spoiled, and thus be useless for this purpose. Contact buyers of flax straw before baling operations are undertaken.



COMMENTS BY FLAX GROWERS . . .

MANITOBA

F. Van Ryssel, from Oakbank, Manitoba, says: "I have grown Flax for the past 15 years with satisfactory success. My average yield is 15 bushels per acre. During the last three years I have combined my Flax and have got up to Grade 1 C.W. or equally as good as from stooks. I shall continue to grow Flax, as it fits in well with my labor distribution and rotation program."

SASKATCHEWAN

"For this district of Northern Saskatchewan I have found Redwing Flax an excellent crop, when grown on summerfallow," says J. Caplan from Weldon, Saskatchewan. "I recommend using a good grade seed, planting no deeper than one inch, about May 10th to 15th and using fertilizer."

"Flax is an easy crop to grow and to harvest with a combine. It compares very favorably with any other crop."

ALBERTA

"In my farming experience, I have realized high returns per acre on my flax crop," says H. Feldbusch, from Vauxhall, Alberta. "I have sown 85 acres and harvested 2110 bushels, an average of 25 bushels per acre; on another occasion 10 acres yielded between 34 and 35 bushels per acre and my total acreage again averaged 25 bushels, and for that kind of yield, flax becomes a mighty important crop on my farm."

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The compilers of this book wish to acknowledge that much of the text has been taken directly from the following publications:

"Increasing Farm Incomes With Flax"—published by the Flax Development Committee in the United States.

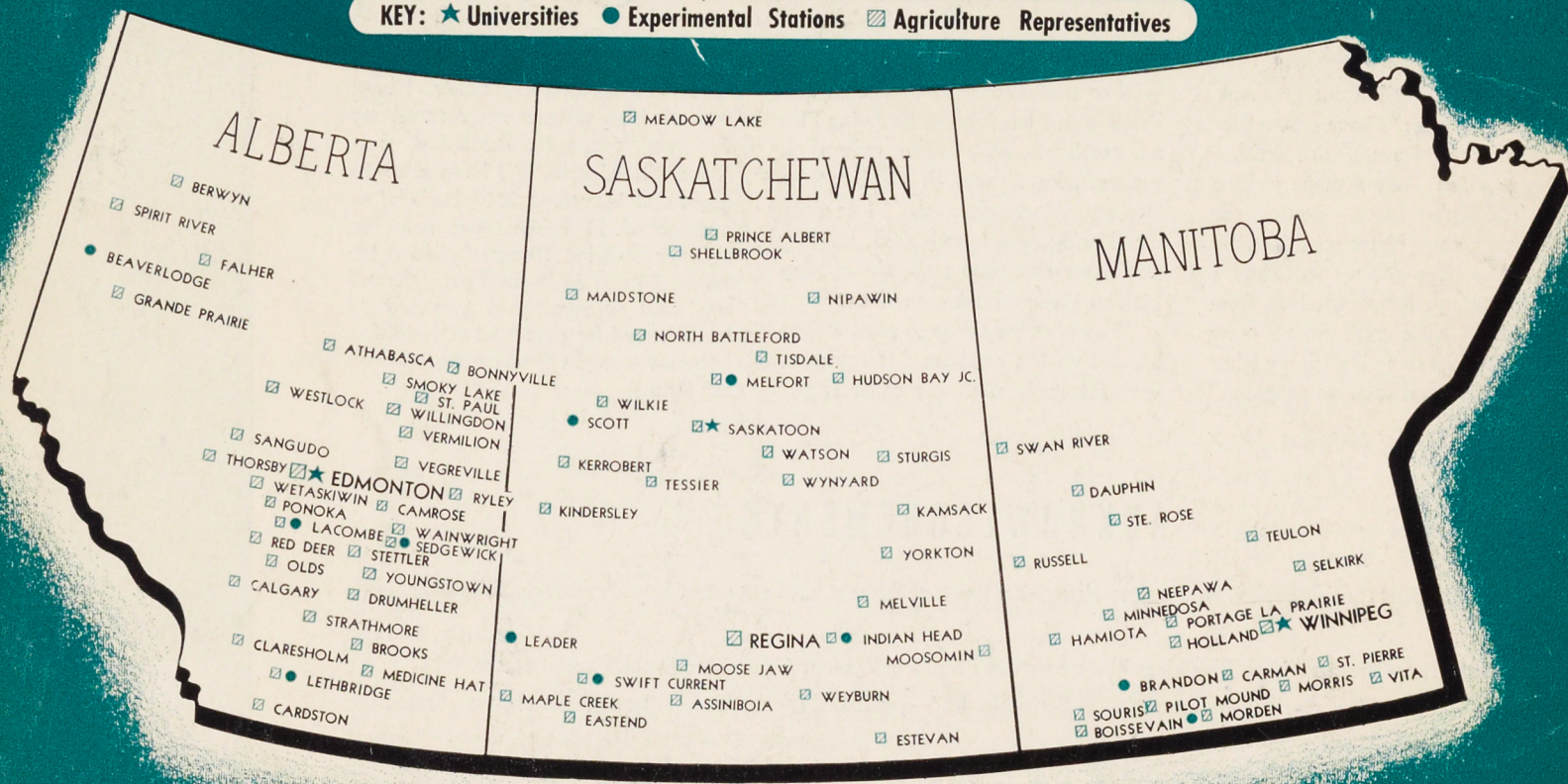
"The Growing of Flax, Agriculture Extension Bulletin No. 62"—published by the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Sask.

"Flax Production in Alberta, Circular No. 40"—published by the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alta.



96% of all the FLAX grown in Canada is raised in the Prairie Provinces

KEY: ★ Universities ● Experimental Stations ☒ Agriculture Representatives



For detailed information about growing of FLAX in your locality contact your University, Experimental Station and Agriculture Representative.